



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Foundations: For the Love of Our Children

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I can think of being assigned no tougher duty or given no higher privilege, responsibility and opportunity than that of being a parent. It has been said that parenting is not about raising children. Parenting is about taking children and raising adults. My wife and I have been privileged to raise 4 adults, 3 sons and 1 daughter. They are all awesome and we couldn't be prouder for who they each have become and are yet becoming.

As I was reading today about our great Founding Fathers, I was struck not only by the families in which they grew up, but also by the educational system that fostered their brilliance as world leaders. Did you know that one early textbook of great influence on them was *The New England Primer*? First introduced in Boston in 1690, it was a schoolbook from which Americans learned to read until 1930; it is what would be described as a first grade textbook.

Like many of you, I have a graduate degree (Masters) with formal education beyond that. I wonder how we would do if we had to pass the following first grade test:

- To memorize the alphabet, we'd have to memorize certain parts of the Bible. The letter "A" would be characterized by Proverbs 10:1 – A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother. "B" is Proverbs 15:16 – Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith. "C" – Come unto Christ all of you that labor and are heavy laden and He will give you rest (Matthew 11:28). Every letter of the alphabet was to be learned in this manner, i.e., with a corresponding Bible verse.

In the back of this *first grade book* (emphasis mine) were over a hundred questions, including:

- Which is the fifth commandment?
- What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?
- What is required and what is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

There were dozens of similar Bible-oriented questions. This is but one example of the following truth: America was founded as a Bible nation. How are we doing today to uphold it as such?

Today's Quote – "I believe the Bible to be the written Word of God and to contain in it the whole rule of faith and manners." – Robert Trent Paine, Signer of the Declaration of Independence

(Sources: *America's Godly Heritage*; *Four Centuries of American Education*; *The Founder's Bible*. For details on these and other resources go to www.wallbuilders.com, which possesses over 100,000 original documents from our Founding Fathers.)

ATTENTION LA'S & SUPPORT STAFF – A NON-DENOMINATIONAL BIBLE STUDY FOR YOU BEGINS THIS FRIDAY, FEB. 15, IN ROOM 229 CAP. WE START AT 11AM. ALL LA'S AND SUPPORT STAFF ARE WELCOME!_____

*Capitol Commission Minnesota is a non-partisan, non-political pastoral ministry to the political leaders, their families, their staffs and their political networks in the State of Minnesota. Dale Witherington is the State Director and can be reached at 651.785.3647 and at dale.witherington@capitolcom.org. Visit us on the web at www.capitolcom.org